

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's comments, which have greatly assisted Applicant in responding. Applicant respectfully requests that the Amendment After Final Office Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

- 5 Applicant submits that this amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Applicant submits that, thus, there is a good and sufficient reason why this amendment is necessary, why this amendment was not earlier presented, and why this amendment should be admitted now. Furthermore, Applicant believes that consideration of this amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one
10 or more issues for appeal.

- Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowability of Claim 18. Claims 1-5, 8-25, 31, and 33-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 31, 33, 34 have been amended for clarification and to incorporate allowable limitations recited in Claim 18. No new matter has been entered. Applicant respectfully
15 requests reconsideration of the present application as amended.

Claim rejections Under 35 USC 103

- Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 12-15, 17, 19-21, 24, and 31 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,305 to Neustein
20 (hereinafter "Neustein"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

- Independent Claims 1, 12, 13, 19, 20, and 31 have been amended to incorporate allowable limitations recited in allowable Claim 18 and, thus, are distinguishable over
25 Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claims 2, 3,

5, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, and 24, dependent directly or indirectly from Claims 1, 12, 13, 19, and 20, respectively, are also distinguishable over Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claims 4, 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and Neustein and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,363,431 to Schull et al. (hereinafter "Schull"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin, Neustein, and Schull, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claims 4, 16 depend directly from allowable independent Claims 1 and 13, respectively, and Schull does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 13, as amended, are distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Schull, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claims 4, 16, dependent directly from Claims 1, and 13, respectively, are also distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Schull, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and Neustein and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,226 to Houggy et al. (hereinafter "Houggy"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin, Neustein, and Houggy, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 10 depends directly from allowable independent Claim 1 and Houggy does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Houggy, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed.

- 5 Claim 10, dependent directly from Claim 1, is also distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Houggy, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

- 10 Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin, Neustein and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,317,485 to Homan et al. (hereinafter "Homan"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin, Neustein, and Homan, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

- 15 Claim 11 depends directly from allowable independent Claim 1 and Homan does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Homan, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 11, dependent directly from Claim 1, is also distinguishable over Amin, Neustein,
20 and Homan, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

- Claims 22, 23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin, in
25 view of Neustein, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,588,038 to Snyder (hereinafter "Snyder"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin, Neustein, and Snyder,

taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claims 22, 23 depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent Claim 20 and Snyder does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Snyder, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claims 22, 23, dependent from Claim 20 are also distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Snyder, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin, in view of Neustein, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,115 to Swistock (hereinafter "Swistock"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin, Neustein, and Swistock, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Claim 25 depends directly or indirectly from allowable independent Claim 20 and Swistock does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin and Neustein, taken alone or in combination. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Swistock, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 25, dependent from Claim 20, is also distinguishable over Amin, Neustein, and Swistock, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,858 to Sundhar (hereinafter "Sundhar"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Sundhar, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

- 5 Claim 33 depends directly from allowable Independent Claim 31 and Sundhar does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin or the combination of Amin and Neustein. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 31, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin and Sundhar, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 33, dependent directly from Claim 31, is also distinguishable over Amin and Sundhar, taken
10 alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

- Claim 34 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin and in
15 view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,559 to Amin (hereinafter "Amin559"). Applicant respectfully submits that Amin and Amin559, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

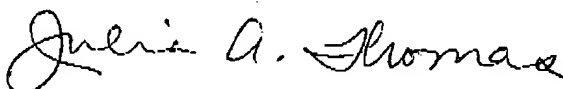
- Claim 34 depends directly from allowable independent Claim 31 and Amin559 does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Amin or the combination of Amin and Neustein. Thus,
20 Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 31, as amended, is distinguishable over Amin and Amin559, taken alone or in combination, and should be allowed. Claim 34, dependent directly from Claim 31, is also distinguishable over Amin and Amin559, taken alone or in combination, and should also be allowed at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections
25 and allowance of the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are patentable and are now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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